



CALPEEK

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ELECTION PREVIEW

Editor's note: This is the issue where we wrap up the various Demo & GOP battles for Statewide office, House & Legislative seats, take a final look at ballot initiatives and wrap up some local contests...

Political Overview & Trends

- **Voter Turnout** - There is much guess work here and it's the subject of intense speculation. Some sources think the turnout will be in the high 40% range, while others predict it will be in the mid-50% range, but will not exceed 58%. The turnout was 58.6% in 1990. FYI: Demos have assembled 4,000 precinct captains & 20,000 volunteers for their GOTV effort on Nov. 8th. It's smaller than the 1992 effort, but sources says it's better organized. But will it work???

- **Vote By Mail** - One indication of perhaps a better turnout in the general are absentee ballots. Both the GOP and Demos had VBM programs this year. Acting Sec. of State Tony Miller told CALPEEK that early signs point to an absentee vote of 23-24%. In 1990, it was 18.4%...

- **The Issue** - The key issue in this election is *illegal immigration* in the form of Prop. 187, the SOS Initiative. It's the Prop. 13 & Prop. 103 of 1994. It has created excitement, passion and voter interest...

- **Ticket Splitting** - Calif. voters are not political party loyalists. They do tend to split their tickets between Republicans & Demos and sources say that trend will continue in 1994...

- **Media Coverage** - Although San Jose Mercury News political columnist Philip Trownstine's recent blast at the failure of local TV news to cover politics is gen-

erally accurate, it seems that instead of waiting until the last 7 days to say, "Gee folks, we've got an election," local TV news woke up around the middle of October with coverage of 187 and the top-ticket races. That's encouraging. Talk radio was already deeply involved. Some sources think the earlier than usual TV coverage, plus good print coverage, will stimulate overall voter interest. Cable TV, especially L.A.'s Century Cable, has provided excellent political coverage...

- **Hispanic Voters** - The biggest unknown is whether Hispanics will turn out in large numbers because of Prop. 187. Insiders have no idea. As for Black voters, some sources think the turnout in L.A.'s South-Central will be dismal, but will be heavy in Oakland where there's a hot local battle for mayor...

Statewide Constitutional Offices

- **Governor** - Even the most die-hard, yellow-dog Demos now admit that the *New Jersey Scenario* won't fly in Calif. and that it would take a minor miracle for Demo Kathleen Brown to win. Except for that one moment when she beat the pants off Pete Wilson during their one debate, Brown has failed to excite Demo base, whereas Wilson has run a near flawless and totally focused campaign. The big question: can Brown keep it close enough so that Demos will show up to vote? The latest Field Poll showed Wilson ahead, 50% to 41%, among likely voters. Wilson internal polls have him slightly higher...

- **Lt. Governor** - Although Wilson has been trying to help running mate Cathie Wright(R), most sources say Controller Gray Davis has a lock on this contest. The L.A. Times poll showed Davis at 58%, Wright at 26% and undecided at 16%...

{Continued Next Page}

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● **Attorney General** - Incumbent AG Dan Lungren (R) enjoys a 53% to 33% advantage over Demo challenger Tom Umberg of Orange Co. in the LAT survey, but Umberg's hard hitting TV ad has Lungren nervous. Still, most sources see Lungren as the winner...

● **Controller** - Will Demo businesswoman Kathleen Connell's \$1 million slick TV ads do the trick? Fiscal conservative Tom McClintock(R), who is running some very creative radio/tv spots, doesn't have the bucks to compete, but is holding his own in winning newspaper editorial support. It could be closer than the current L.A. Times survey suggests because sources say Wilson supposedly kicked in about \$250,000 to help McC with late TV. The LAT poll showed Connell holding a 44% to 34% lead, with 21% undecided. Prediction: slight edge to Connell...

● **Treasurer** - BOE Member Matt Fong and former CDP Chair Phil Angelides are locked in a very tight race. Angelides will outspend Fong better than 2-to-1, with both positive & negative TV ads. The LAT survey shows this race to be dead even, with Fong holding a 41% to 40% lead. Ballot title could make a difference. Fong lists his BOE job, while Angelides lists his as *businessman & financial manager*. Prediction: too close to call. Question: will Roberti Demos "come home" or will they cross-over for Fong???

● **Secretary of State** - GOP Assemblyman Bill Jones of Fresno may be the co-author the "3 Strikes" Law, a fact he plays up in those Decision '94 3-way ads now airing on TV, but it's Acting SOS Tony Miller(D) who is winning most of the newspaper endorsements and he has that great ballot title. The latest LAT survey showed Miller at 44%, Jones at 31% and the rest undecided. Prediction: close, but an edge to Miller...

● **Insurance Commissioner** - State Sen. Art Torres (D) is a slight favorite to defeat Assemblyman Chuck Quackenbush in this battle. The latest LAT survey has Torres ahead, 46% to 40%, with 13% undecided. The Torres TV spot, which is a side-by-side comparison of their records, is solid and hits Quackenbush for taking huge contributions from the insurance industry...

U.S. Senate

...Despite the \$27 million GOP candidate Michael

Huffington has spent on this effort to unseat U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D), most sources say Huffington is in trouble, due mainly to his handling of the Prop. 187 endorsement and the *nannygate* affair. By his own words, deeds, etc., he came off looking like a **hypocrite**. The incident revealed major *character flaws* and that's hurting him. And when asked by George Will on ABC-TV's This Week what will happen to all the illegal kids who are kicked out of school because of 187, Huffington said their parents should send them to *private school*. Sorry, wrong answer and Huffington's response made him look very foolish. The latest Field Poll has DiFi up by 6% among likely voters and other tracking polls show *nannygate* has put DiFi up from 7-9 points. Does DiFi mash Huffington? No - sources think it will be a close race despite all this *nannygate* stuff. But ticket splitting and cross-over GOP support, helped by the endorsement of L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and other key Republicans, should do the trick for DiFi...

U.S. House of Representatives

...Democrats hold a 30-22 lead over the Republicans in the makeup of the CA Congressional delegation. 1992 was a big year for Demos and many sources think the Demos won some seats that should have been won by GOP candidates. We've listed 4 categories: most vulnerable; toss-ups; watch list; and open seat battles. Here's what our sources think:

● **Most Vulnerable** - 1st C.D. Dan Hamburg(D) and 43rd C.D. Ken Calvert(R). Frank Riggs is rated a slight favorite over Hamburg, while Mark Takano is a slight favorite against Calvert...

● **Toss-Ups** - 19th C.D. Rick Lehman(D-Inc.) vs. George Radanovich(R) - Demos are *very* worried; 24th C.D. Tony Beilenson(D-Inc.) vs. Rich Sybert(R) - Demos are worried; and Lynn Schenk(D-Inc.) vs. Brian Bilbray(R) - if Schenk gets GOP cross-overs, she'll just get by, but it's going to be real close...

● **Watch List** - 3rd C.D. Vic Fazio(D-Inc.) had been worried, but even GOPers tell us Vic is safe in '94; 4th C.D. John Doolittle(R-Inc.) has a battle with Demo Katie Hirning, but it leans his way; 36th C.D. Jane Harman(D-Inc.) has had her hands full with Susan Brooks, but most sources think Harman survives; 42nd C.D. George Brown(D-Inc.) is always on our watch list...

- **Open Seat Battles** - 22nd C.D. Andrea Seastrand (R) vs. Walter Capps(D) - one GOP poll shows Seastrand up by 12 pts., while the Demo poll has her up by only 2 pts, with 16% undecided. Very close, but an edge to Seastrand. 44th C.D. Sonny Bono(R) vs. Steve Clute(D) - Hey babe, the 44th C.D. is GOP turf. Leans Bono...

California Legislative Contests

...**Calif. State Senate** - The current line-up is 22 Demos, 16 Republicans and 2 independents. Of the 20 even numbered seats that are up in 1994, 14 are held by Demos, 5 by Republicans and Quentin Kopp of S.F. is the lone independent. Sources predict Demo Senate Leader Bill Lockyer will still be in control on Nov. 9th, but he may have some tense moments. For the State Senate, we've listed 3 categories: toss-ups, watch list and open seat battles...

- **Toss-Ups** - 4th S.D. Maurice Johannessen(R) vs. Michael McGowan(D) - McGowan is pounding Mo-Jo in TV spots and some polls show McGowan up by 6 pts.; 16th S.D. Phil Wyman(R) vs. Jim Costa(D) - a re-run of an earlier battle, only the district has changed to a more Demo-leaning area, very nasty battle and very close; 28th S.D. Ralph Dills(D) vs. David Barrett Cohen(R) - it appears the GOP decided to fund other races, but unless the GOTV effort in the 55th A.D. is strong for Dills, Cohen still has a shot...

- **Watch List** - 12th S.D. Dan McCorquodale(D) vs. Dick Monteith(R) - the GOP recently put \$350,000 into this race. It's a competitive district, but Dan and Lockyer were prepared. Leans Demo; 40th S.D. Steve Peace(D) vs. Joe Ghougassian(R) - in a recent debate, Joe attacked Peace's close ally/confidant Irwin Nowick for allegedly watering down crime bills. Peace's response: "Irwin was for the death penalty before you were a U.S. citizen." The 40th remains Demo...

- **Open Seats** - Sources say the 18th S.D. is all but over with Jack O'Connell(D) the winner. But in the 36th S.D. out in Riverside Co., sources say Demo Sup. Kay Cenicer is running *dead even* with hardline conservative Ray Haynes. She won the Riverside Press Enterprise endorsement. GOP moderates & women are crossing party lines. Most sources thought Haynes had it locked away. Demos are pumping in money and

hoping for an upset. **Post Script:** In the 29th S.D. special election, sources say Richard Mountjoy is a slam dunk winner for this seat on Nov. 8th...

...**State Assembly**. Demo Speaker Willie Brown has his hands full. He currently enjoys a 47-33 majority in the lower house, but clearly Demos won seats in 1992 - that should have gone to the Republicans. And Brown has several vulnerable incumbents who sources say are in deep trouble. GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte is downplaying expectations. He says the GOP will pick up 2-3 seats. Sorry, but that's **low** based on what our sources say. They predict that as of Nov. 9th, the line-up could be 42-38. We've listed 4 categories: most vulnerable, toss-ups, watch list and open seats, where many sources think the best battles will take place...

- **Most Vulnerable** - 56th A.D. Bob Epple(D) had a tough time in 1992 (a big Demo year); 77th A.D. Tom Connolly(D) - despite a great TV spot and a Demo rescue effort, sources say Steve Baldwin wins...

- **Toss-Ups** - 44th A.D. Bill Hoge(R) in a tough battle with Bruce Philpott(D); 80th A.D. Julie Bornstein(D) in a tough race with Jim Battin(R)...

- **Watch List** - All of these "lean toward" the incumbents, but upsets could occur: 10th A.D. Larry Bowler (R); 27th A.D. Bruce McPherson(R); 43rd A.D. James Rogan(R); 54th A.D. Betty Karnette(D)...

- **Open Seat Battles** - 17th A.D. Machado(D) vs. Simas(R) - leans Demo; 20th A.D. Figueroa(D) vs. Haggerty(R), leans Demo; 24th A.D. Foglia(D) vs. Cunneen(R), leans GOP; 28th A.D. Cervantes(D) vs. Frusetta(R), leans Demo; 30th A.D. Batrach(D) vs. Setencich(R), toss-up; 35th A.D. Lorenz(D) vs. Firestone (R), leans GOP despite the Ventura Co. DA's recent indictment of GOP operatives registering "dead people" a la Texas politics; 69th A.D. Metzler(D) vs. Morrissey (R), leans GOP but local pro-GUN types are urging a Libertarian vote; 76th A.D. Davis(D) vs. Trettin(R), toss-up...

The Hot Initiatives

...The L.A. Times and more recent Field Poll both show YES on 187 *dropping, but still ahead*, especially in the voter-rich San Diego/Orange Co. areas. NO on 187, which has had The Tarrance Group doing tracking polls

for weeks, claims their latest track of 600 from Oct. 27-31 now shows NO at 44% and YES at 41%. Most of our sources still think 187 is a *winner*. Very close...

...Prop. 184, the so-called "3 Strikes" initiative, wins, but it's a flawed measure; Prop. 186, the single-payer health care initiative, bites the dust --- no money to fight the big bucks anti-186 campaign; and Prop. 188, the tobacco industry's smoking initiative, is losing in the polls, but with all that money you can never tell...

Local Elections

- **Oakland Mayor's Race** - Sources say this contest will depend on turnout. Right now it's a toss-up between incumbent Elihu Harris and businessman Ted Dang. A very bitter contest, with former Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson making some racist remarks...

- **DA Contests** - Sources continue to say that Sacto DA Steve White is in trouble with Dep. DA Jan Scully. And sources in San Diego still believe that attorney Paul Pfingst is a slight favorite to beat Muni Court Judge Larry Stirling...

- **The El Toro Initiative - Measure A** (The El Toro Initiative) to convert the Marine Corps Air Station into a commercial airport is dead even in the latest poll, with 39% YES and 40% NO, with 21% undecided. YES on A supporter George Argyros just dropped \$440,000 into the YES campaign - so it will be raining mail...

- **Orange Co. Board of Supes** - In one of the few hot supervisorial contests, sources say it's just too close to call between Jim Silva and Linda Moulton-Patterson. LM-P won the endorsement of the L.A. Times, but Silva's team is letting voters he's the Republican and LM-P is a Demo. In this 60-40 GOP district, that may swing the election. FYI: the "7 Halloween Tricks" hit mailer by LM-P is great, but will it work???

- **S.F. Board of Supes** - Our sources say incumbent Supes Conroy, Midgen & Shelley are easy winners. As for the other frontrunners, Sup. Susan Leal, community college trustee Mabel Teng and Tom Ammiano, they have to battle for the remaining 2 seats. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S EDITOR TO ADDRESS L.A. CHAMBER.
CALPEEK editor/publisher Dick Rosengarten will address members of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce's Govt. Affairs Forum, 12 noon, Nov. 14, at the Chamber's new HQ, 350 S. Bixel Street. Rosengarten will provide the forum with "his spin" and analysis of the Nov. 8th election...

POST-ELECTION CONFERENCE SET FOR NOV. 15th.
An all-day post-election conference called "Election '94: Consequences for Calif.," will be held on Nov. 15 running from 9-5, at the L.A. Airport Hilton Hotel. The conference is sponsored by the Citizens' Research Foundation (USC). For info (213)743-5211. Herb Alexander is the conference chair...

CALPEEK'S SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1994
Because we didn't take off enough vacation time in the summer --- and because we can't end the year without at least one issue in December --- we'll be publishing 44 issues instead of 44. We'll do #43 on Nov. 14 and #44 on Nov. 21 --- then break for Thanksgiving (no issue on Nov. 28) and finish up the year with #45 on Dec. 5. FYI: Friday, Nov. 11th is Veteran's Day and the Post Office will be closed. So those of you who normally get CALPEEK on Friday --- sorry...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- It's happy 30th birthday to Women For, who will celebrate with a dinner on Nov. 7th at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, featuring columnist Art Buchwald. Women For was organized in 1964 with 35 politically active women. Today the group has a membership of 2,000

- Fitch/Davis Associates moves to new offices at 615 S. Grand Ave., Ste. 1205, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Phone (213)623-5125...

- OPTIMA, Orange Co.'s new managed health care system for 300,000 Medi-Cal recipients, has hired M. Stockstill as PA director & Kathleen Crowley as associate PA director. Both are former PA execs with The Irvine Company...

- Demo pollster David Binder has moved his office 295 Fell Street, Ste. B, S.F., CA 94102. New phone is (415)621-POLL...